



The Headmaster's Newsletter

18 September 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to my first Newsletter of the new academic year. This promises to be an exciting and successful one for your sons and I look forward to sharing and celebrating their achievements.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Rev. Br. C.J. Sreenan (Headmaster of St. Anselm's College 1988-1993) who passed away in August.

Guy Champney (Former student, who left in 1993), who died suddenly in August.

Francis Davies (Member of the Anselmian Association) who died recently.

Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to

Andrew Nance (Yr. 13), who has been invited to take part in the Catenians International Public Speaking Competition, to be held at Manchester University later this term.

Michael Strother (Y13), Head Boy, who was a member of the winning Liverpool Victoria eight at the recent North West regatta.

Appointments with Staff

I would respectfully point out that, if you wish to speak with a member of the teaching staff, e.g. your son's Form Teacher, please do not just turn up in Reception and expect to speak to a them as they are unable to leave their class to meet with you. It is important, therefore, that you ring the College in advance to make a mutually convenient appointment to meet with a particular member of the teaching staff.

Car Parking

Time for my annual reminder! Please ensure that you park safely and legally if

you insist on coming into Egerton Rd at the end of school. **There is no road access to the College from 3.45-4.15pm.** Please ensure that YOU do not block our neighbours' driveways. There is plenty of parking available on Palm Grove and Manor Hill and you will be able to make a swifter escape from those roads.

Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening, for primary school boys and families, will be held on **Wednesday 23rd September** from 5.30-8.30pm. The College will close at 2pm on Wednesday and the bus services will run as normal, but provided by Al's.

Many boys help as guides and in departments. Please ensure that you return a permission slip to Mrs. Howlett if your son has volunteered to assist.

Food Technology Hub

I am delighted to announce that we have received planning permission for a new Food Technology Building. The project will be fully funded by the DCSF and will enable us to expand our curriculum and teach Food Technology at Key Stage 3. In time it is likely to become a GCSE option. The new building will be erected at the rear of the College site.

The SHARP System

SHARP stands for School Help and Advice Reporting Page. This has been set up by Merseyside Police to allow students to report, in confidence, incidents to do with bullying, health, community issues, weapons and hate crimes. There is a link from the College website to the SHARP System and from the Anti-Bullying section of the MLE. The web address is www.thesharpsystem.com

Once on, students need to go to **sharp schools** then **north west** and then **Wirral** (they will need to scroll quite far down the page). They will then find St. Anselm's College, where there are a series of links on issues relevant to young people today. They can also report issues concerning them from this page via email.

Key Dates

Parents Evenings:

Yr. 11 – Wed. 21st October

Yr. 13 – Tues. 3rd November

Yr. 12 – Wed. 11th November

Yr. 7 – Tues. 1st December

Yr. 9 – Wed. 13th January 2010

Yr. 9 – Options Eve. – Wed. 20th January

Yr. 8 – Thurs. 4th February

Yr. 10 – Tues. 2nd March

Half Term: 26th to 30th October incl.

End of Term: Fri., 18th December

Once again, the term dates for the academic year 2009-2010 are attached to this Newsletter.

Free School Meals

If you, or your spouse, are in receipt of Income Support OR Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance OR Guaranteed Pension Credit OR Child Tax Credit, with a total annual taxable income of **LESS THAN £14,495 BUT NOT RECEIVING WORKING TAX CREDIT**, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals and a school uniform grant (for Year 7 only). You should contact the Local Authority if you think you meet the above criteria.

Forgotten lunches PE kits

Please remind your sons that if they have left their lunch, PE kits or any other property at home to please go to Reception to check if it has been handed in by a parent. Items (marked with the boy's name) will then be left in the 'Collections Tray' for collection by them. The staff in the Main Office are extremely busy and it can take several minutes checking the timetable and then delivering the items to the student concerned.

Absence line

A further reminder – if your son is absent please call the direct line for absentees – **651 3576** – and leave a message **before 9.00 am** on each day that he is off school.

Absence Calls

If a boy is not marked in the Register he is regarded as absent and the Receptionist, Mrs. Peers, has been instructed to ring a parental contact number. All boys who are

late must sign the late book to prevent this happening. These calls can cause distress to parents, but have to be made to ensure a boy's welfare. **If your son is late and has failed to sign the late book then he is to blame for any distress caused. Please emphasise to him that it is HIS responsibility to ensure that he signs the late book.** This includes boys on the 611 & 612 Buses, who must also sign in when the buses are late.

Hair Styles & Appearance

The College Policy is clear. Boys who have shaved heads will be sent home until their hair grows as will those with hair below the collar until it is cut. **No dyed or highlighted hair is allowed.** This rule applies equally to 6th Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut. **Anyone returning in September** with an inappropriate hairstyle will be sent home.

No earrings or piercings are allowed, including for 6th Formers.

iPods/CD Players

A reminder of the College Policy. Boys SHOULD NOT bring these increasingly expensive items to College as we cannot guarantee their security. If a boy in Y7-11 openly brandishes one it is liable to confiscation. Any boy bringing a mobile phone to College does so at his own risk. Confiscated items will only be returned on Fridays after school. To reclaim an item, a pupil must bring a letter from a parent, which Mrs. Howlett or myself will countersign. Confiscated items cannot be reclaimed on any day other than Friday. Electronic equipment, including personal possessions, now plays an important part in student learning. However, it can be misused! I remind all parents that we retain the right to confiscate such equipment if we suspect misuse, such as inappropriate material being brought into the College or circulated.

St. Anselm's College Mailing List

Keep up-to-date with life at St. Anselm's College by visiting www.st-anselms.com to join our mailing list. Look for the mailing list link on the left of the homepage; it couldn't be simpler – so the ICT Dept. inform me!!

Pupil Amendment Details

If there are any changes to the details we currently hold on file for your son (e.g. change of address, telephone numbers

etc.), please ask him to collect the necessary form from Reception. This should be completed by you and returned to the College office as soon as possible.

College Buses

The new services are running well, despite inevitable teething trouble! The details of the services are available on the College website. The 611 covers the Deeside route and the 612 the old H5, Birkenhead-Eastham route. We have found the new contractors more amenable than their predecessors, so please report any problems to them, and to the College if unresolved! The 611 will rarely leave us before 4.15pm owing to traffic congestion. One welcome change has been the cheaper fares for most boys.

FOSA NEWS

Our next function is the **Wine Tasting Evening on Friday 25th September** in the Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Office, priced £15pp. This covers all your wine and food, so you ought not to need to spend any extra! Mr. Hollifield will be our chief sommelier, deploying a lifetime's rigorous training and preparation for your benefit!! The theme is Italian wine. Flyers have been sent out via registers, and details are also on the website. All parents are automatically members of FOSA and you are welcome to bring your friends along!

Specialist College Funding

We are grateful to **Haworth & Gallagher, Solicitors**, who have sponsored us in our bid to secure £25,000 in matched funding from the DCSF. Several other sponsors have provisionally offered their assistance.

Staffing News

A warm welcome to our new staff, **Mr. Peter Formela (Art)**, **Miss Helen Woolley (English)**, **Mrs. Norma Wood (Librarian)** and **Mrs. Mirjam Koch (MFL GTP)**.

Chaplaincy

We are seeking volunteers to support the work of our Chaplaincy Team. Anyone interested in helping is invited to contact **Mr. Jones**, Head of RE, or myself, at the College.

GCE & GCSE Results

This has been a tremendous summer of achievement! Our GCE (A level) results were, as anticipated, very good. 47% of all entries were graded at the top grades A &

B and we enjoyed a 98% pass rate. 6 students achieved 4 A grades and 10 achieved 3 A grades or better! Year 13 were a wonderful cohort and the boys fully deserve their success.

The Year 12 AS results were very pleasing and the overwhelming majority of students have qualified for a place in Year 13.

Jamie Carragher, Tim Mercer and Michael Strother all achieved 5 A grades!

Our GCSE results were outstanding, the best in the College's history by a considerable distance! 98% of Year 11 boys achieved at least 5 grades A*-C, and 93% achieved the national benchmark of 5+A*-C including English & Maths. 41% of all entries were graded at A*/A and 41% of students achieved 5 A*/A grades or better! On average students gained 9.8 grades A*-C. All these figures represent College records! Every student can be proud of his achievement. 10 boys gained 100% A*/A grades, including **Joe Fennelly**, from Hoylake, who gained 10 A*s and 1 A grade, and twins **Alex & James McIntosh**, from Port Sunlight, who both reached this standard. Honourable mentions also go to **Adam Bramhall, Jonathan Downing, Tom Fraine, James Hilton, Ben Jones, Dan O'Grady & Niall Robinson** for their outstanding efforts!

For the first time Year 10 took GCSE RS and this decision was vindicated with a 96% pass rate. Congratulations to the Maths & Spanish Year 10 Fast Track groups who achieved 100% passes despite sitting their exam a year early. **Kieran Ryan**, from Wallasey, has already secured 3 A* grades before entering Year 11!

Year 7 Welcome Mass

This will be celebrated on **Thursday 8th October at 7pm in the Hall**. It is a wonderful way of welcoming new pupils, and their families, into our community. A letter of confirmation will be sent to you closer to the time.

And Finally,

This week we have celebrated the triumph of the Holy Cross which serves as our inspiration as we remember God's love for us, and seek to communicate that truth, and the hope that accompanies it, to our students

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster